

Grapevine



New Look for the Grapevine

Living at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville – January 2009

From the Desk of the Administrator...

*The
GRAPEVINE
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What an exciting 2008 we have had. Many new things have been happening here at the home and I would like to thank all of the staff and Residents for embracing these changes and making them successful.

We are looking forward to more exciting changes in 2009. This will start with the *Grapevine* newsletter partnering up with the *Yountville Sun*. The first issue will be out on January 8, 2009 and will continue every other week. One of the things that I am looking forward to seeing in the new newsletter is articles on Residents and Employees. We have so many wonderful people living and working at the home and we forget who are among us and the differences they have made along the way.

Another thing that will be happening early this year is that the *KVET TV* Station will be opening its doors and calling the Armistice Chapel its home. KVET has also partnered up with the Napa Valley College and will be working with the college students in the broadcasting department. We are looking forward to a new and improved KVET soon.

The KVET studio will also be used as a meeting place for many different functions. The inside of the Chapel is beautiful and makes for a warm and wonderful atmosphere.

The Veterans Home of California, Yountville will be celebrating our 125th anniversary this year. We are in the process of planning several events for the yearlong celebration.

One of the things planned for this event is a Memory Book. This will include historical and current photos and events of the home. We would also like to include group photos of Residents in each Section and Staff in each department so stay tuned for more information.

Thank you for a great 2008 and an even better 2009.



Cover Photo

**Marcella McCormack
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Yountville Sun**

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Thanksgiving Day in Yountville

Whether you ate at our Main Dining Room or made the short trip to enjoy Yountville's Community Dinner, there was plenty of turkey and fixings!

In the Veterans Home Main Dining Room, Gordon Elton and Dottie Deerwester (*photo at right*) coordinated the 95 Travis personnel and their families who volunteered to serve and visit the Home Members. Beginning at the Hospital and the Annexes, many stayed to serve meals, offer beverages and wine, clean up trays and visit with Home Members in the Main Dining Room. This is their fourth year of volunteering on Thanksgiving Day at the Veterans Home. Gordon said the volunteerism has increased yearly and this year they had to turn away more than 40 volunteers.

I got to meet and talk with Debra Dingman and her son Devon who came with Debra's Air Force husband. Since journalism is her career, we had a lot in common to discuss. Debra also brought an extra treat prepared by her Sunday School Class at the Dixon Methodist Church – beautifully decorated prayers for the tables.

This is the first year that the Yountville Community Thanksgiving Dinner was revived. Activities bussed Home Members to the Community Center so that we could mingle with familiar and new faces to enjoy the food prepared by volunteers and Chef Kevin Miller of Vintage Estates. The Town Council Members and other volunteers served the delicious meal to make for a thoroughly enjoyable experience.



Yountville kicks off the holiday season with the 20th Annual Festival of Light!

On Friday, November 28th from 2pm to 6pm as the Town of Yountville presented the 20th Annual Festival of Lights. There was food and wine booths; carolers and holiday music; pictures with Santa; ice carving demonstrations; carriage rides; and activities for the whole family! At 5pm Santa and his helpers lit the town. Under the twinkling white lights the carriage rides continued;

shops stayed open late and Santa was available for photos with the kids until 8pm.

This year's festival was sponsored by the Yountville Chamber of Commerce, Town of Yountville, V Marketplace, Vintage Inn, Villagio Inn & Spa, KVON and KVYN radio, Yountville Inn and the Ranch Markets.



Disabled American Veterans Christmas Party

By Lou Zauner

The Hospital Recreation Area was once again the site of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Christmas party on Saturday afternoon, December 20. Hosted by Master of Ceremonies Ken Wingett, 15 to 20 DAV volunteers served cookies, cake and juices. “Girl’s Night Out” entertained the audience with an eclectic variety of songs from country music, popular ballads and Christmas carols.

The DAV was founded as a non-profit organization in 1920 dedicated to build better lives for veterans disabled in combat and their families. Today, there are approximately 1.2 million members-- all wounded in time of war. The DAV are again prepared to provide its incomparable assistance and support for the homecoming veterans of the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars.

Our grateful thanks for the magnanimous dedicated work of the Disabled American Veterans and for remembering the Yountville Veterans Home and its Residents again this Christmas Season.



Remember, Honor, and Teach The Goal of Wreaths Across America

What began in 1992 as a gesture at Arlington National Cemetery has spread to 286 sites throughout the nation. Balsam fir wreaths with bright red bows are placed at veterans’ gravesites at the same moment on December 12. The Maine resident who began the program explained his reasons: “Without the sacrifices of our veterans, there would be no opportunity to enjoy the freedoms, the life we live today.”

Locally, Yountville businessman and former town council member, Warren K. Nelson, donated the wreaths which were placed at the Yountville Veterans Home cemetery. Long an advocate for veterans, he was instrumental in creating Veterans Park near the entrance of the grounds.



Lights, lights and more lights



Each year the "Christmas Lights Tour" is a very popular activity. Our Transportation Department scouts Napa for the best of the light displays. The route is planned very carefully to wind through the neighborhoods to see the most lights possible before stopping at Marie Calendars for pie and coffee. Spirits were high as we paused at the beautifully decorated homes. Occasionally we would break into song, accompanied by the Christmas music on the radio.

Thanks to Travis and their expert decorating crew, our Veterans Home also glows with holiday displays. Our tour included our own displays and the Town of Yountville.

Napa neighborhood lights





San Ramon High School Chamber Singer Choir

By Lou Zauner



Preceding a short prelude at the Main Dining Hall, the San Ramon Singers gave a full performance of Christmas music to an appreciate audience at the Hospital Recreation Area on Saturday, December 13. Dressed in youthful Christmas attire, the twelve beautiful voices gave their audience a full hour of the most traditional and reminiscent Christmas songs that brought a true season's spirit to the gathering.

San Ramon Valley High School is located in Danville, California, and its Choral Director for the past 24 years has been Ken Abrams. Winning many awards, including the Chamber of Commerce "Teacher of the Year" in 2006, his choirs are noted for their commitment to excellence and by their outstanding ranking at competitions and festivals. The choirs have taken their talents global to many parts of the United States, Europe and other nations.

Our thanks to the San Ramon High School Singer Choir and their Director for their musical Christmas gift.

No-text Law Goes Into Effect January 1, 2009 DMV Tells Drivers to Keep Their Eyes on the Road or Pay a Fine

In order to prevent text-messaging while driving and the collisions which could occur as a result, a new law goes into effect on January 1, 2009.

SB28 prohibits a person using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send or read text-based messages while operating a motor vehicle. This law specifically addresses, but is not limited to, instant messages and all forms of e-mail based correspondence.

Similar to its no-cell phone counterpart, drivers are subject to \$20 fee for the first offense, and \$50 for each subsequent offense. However, unlike SB33 which focuses on teens and SB1613 which allows cell phone usage accompanied by a headset for adults, SB28 affects all drivers. No points will be shown on DMV records for this violation, but penalty assessments will be added, which could more than triple the base fine amount.

This law does not apply to any passengers in motor vehicles and exemptions apply in emergency situations and for emergency service professionals while operating an authorized emergency vehicle.

KIKS Project--A Huge Success

By Lou Zauner

The “Kind Initiative for Kids Shoes,” first organized by Home Member Paul Cheatham in April of this year, recently gained South African fame. Wide South African television coverage and personal appearances accompanied the delivery of 300 pairs of shoes and 600 pairs of socks to poverty children in Soweto. Home Members and AMVETS Life Members Paul Cheatham and Jerry Rambajan returned to the Home early in December after their South African mission. Their enthusiastic and successful journey is becoming an international story.



Paul’s words: “It brought tears to my eyes when I saw that very old, white broken-down truck turning the corner with our pallet of shoes on the flat back leaning to the side as if to topple over at any moment. I realized our journey had almost been completed.”

Following the distribution of the shoes and socks to Ikaneng Combined School in Soweto and Nkosi’s Haven, and an orphanage for AIDS patients; meetings with South African dignitaries and organizations began. Paul and Jerry met with the Commissioner of the Arts and Culture, the Community Services Director and staff and TV commentators and many more. In the Capitol City of Petoria, they were invited to a performance of the Soweto Gospel Choir which was attended by an audience of 5000. Paul and Jerry were introduced to the crowd and asked to talk about KIKS, which is sponsored by AMVETS Post 101 in Yountville, California. The crowd roared with thanks and disbelief that two Americans, during a global recession, would even think of them and bring shoes to their impoverished children.

Another journey is now beginning for Paul Cheatham and Jerry Rambajan – on April 16, 2009, the South African Office of KIKS is opening at Ikanang School, with pledged support for the program by the Minister of Art and Culture for the Republic of South Africa. With another goal of 900 more pairs of shoe in mind for South Africa alone, the two ambassadors of American goodwill have new visions of bringing international poverty to world-wide attention.



Residence Yule Celebrations Section Leaders' Little Extras

By Chris Williams

Was it a competition? No, it was often a co-operation as section leaders provided lavish holidays spreads for the residents they serve all year. Perhaps it's the influence of our location in the Napa Valley, famous for food and wine, that raises the level of the viands to gourmet level.

Section 'A' kicked off the holidays with a buffet that extended the length of their largest space. Staff and other section leader pitched in to help with the lines that wound down the hall. Melinda, leader of section 'H', called their space 'limited', but changed it to 'cozy'.

When residents asked, "Who baked this?" it was revealed that each dish had a back-story. Some family members could work in the Valleys famed restaurants.

Do your friends and relatives believe you when you tell them, "It's impossible to keep up with all the parties going on around here!"?



Thank you, Purple Heart!

On December 10, 2008, the Military Order of the Purple Heart presented Lincoln Hall with a generous donation to help with the upcoming remodel of their kitchen facility. Kathy Pulliam, Section Leader at Lincoln Hall, and Marcella McCormack, Administrator, accepted the donation for the Home.

DAR Ladies Tea

On December 16, 2008 the Women of the Marin County El Marinero Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution brought cheer and good fortune to the ladies at the Veterans Home of California, Yountville. It was an incredible afternoon filled with wonderful baked goods and all the Holiday cheer you could only imagine. Each Home Member was given a goody bag filled with fun girly items.

Founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through education.

Nationwide, DAR members volunteer more than 55,000 hours annually to veteran patients and award over \$150,000.00 in scholarships and financial aid each year to students. The DAR supports schools for the underprivileged with annual donations exceeding one million dollars.

DAR has 170,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership.

El Marinero Chapter is a group of diverse and interesting Marin County women. The one thing we all have in common is that historical records have established that at least one of our ancestors, with unfailing loyalty to the cause of American Independence, served as a sailor, soldier, civil officer, and/or rendered material aid thereto in one or more of the United Colonies or States during the Revolutionary War.

DAR women cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom to foster true patriotism and love of county, and to aid in securing for all the blessings of liberty.



An Extraordinary Pearl Harbor Commemoration

By Lou Zauner



Appropriately, on Sunday, December 7, on behalf of the Marine Memorial Association, Maj. Gen. J. Michael Myatt, USMC (Ret.) presented the Home Members and Staff with an outstanding tribute to veterans in remembrance of the Pearl Harbor attack which took place 67-years ago.

In addition to the patriotic salutes by the Marine Corps Color Guard and meaningful comments by both Myatt and Home Administrator Marcella McCormack, the Marine Memorial Association sponsored a stellar musical performance by two artists from Colorado – Singer and Guitarist Jim Salestrom and Pianist Ken Miller.

General Myatt noted that in 1941, at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor; the population of the United States was at 130 million. Following the attack, the United States had the military services of sixteen-million men and women in uniform. General Myatt also invited all Veterans Home Members to become lifetime members of the Marine Memorial Association. When questioned by an associate why a private club should survive without paid membership fees, General Myatt replied, “These men and women have already paid much more than their membership fees.”



Following the ceremony and Speakers comments, Jim Salestrom, a Country Singer and friend of the late famed Singer John Denver, performed an emotional medley of songs including “Good Morning, America,” “You Fill-Up My Senses,” “Christmastime Is Here” and “Rocky-Mountain High.” Added were two haunting refrains – “Bristol Cone Pine” and “Queen Anne’s Lace.”

Accompanying Jim Salestrom was Ken Miller, the musical director of the Broadmoor Hotel In Colorado Springs. Salestrom’s talents were honed at the famous Julliard School of Music. He played additional selections of enchanting music to add to a most heartfelt musical afternoon. Everyone wiped away a tear.

Thank you General Myatt and the Marine Memorial Association for a remarkable and unforgettable Commemorative event.



Secretary Johnson's Address

By Lou Zauner

On Monday, the first day in December, Secretary for the Department of Veterans Affairs, State of California, Tom Johnson visited the Veterans Home at Yountville to address an assembled group of about 100 in the Main Dining Room. The main purpose of his visit was present to the Home current State budgetary problems and their effect on the California State Veterans homes

In his opening remarks, Secretary Johnson reminded the assembly that the Yountville Veterans Home was the largest veterans home in the nation and the third oldest. Also that only three others in the nation have a hospital on their veterans home campus.

Primarily, the State budget problems of a need to immediately reduce \$11.2 billion in costs is affecting projects of construction and renovation plans for State veterans homes in California. Yountville Veterans Home will not be affected but the planned new ones may present a problem.

Time limitations allowed only a few questions and comments from the assembled group, but Secretary Johnson assured his audience that "all good things about the Yountville Veterans Home will continue."



Not Dark, nor Cold

Volunteer Services Hosts a Charming Event

Are Christmas carols from tinny speakers beginning to fray your nerves? Are you tired of being sung at? Susan Heims and her crew opened the Napa Valley Museum to a reflective, thoughtful evening of good cheer and fine company. Susan even recruited her multi-talented husband to join the musicians who allowed us to savor their solo and blended performances. Ann Gilleran, so often content to supply back-up, shone on both her trusty fiddle and the tin whistles she brought out to haunt us with their wistful sounds. She remained to join Mark Heims and music intern Troy Yanal for a magical session. Accordionist Ed Burgle then appeared in solo.

Is it possible to be lavishly casual? Tillie Crossman accomplished it with tables of viands scattered among the museums displays. "To Brie or not to Brie,"

Continued on next page



❀ Paws with Brandy ❀

The Gift that Lasts

I'm an old dog, and my body is starting to betray me. Stiffness warns me of the passage of time and tells me to hurry. Hurry to fulfill my purpose. I know what my purpose is. It isn't so easy for people.

Sammy's library column is about movie stars. How silly. Who could be less important? One nurse can relieve more pain than all the movie stars. One person who reaches out a caring hand to you is sharing more than all those shadows on the screen. What about fame? If it were important, so many people wouldn't go around asking, "Whatever happened to ...?"

I've been listening to the news on television, and, apparently, money doesn't last either. Or power. Or arrogance. Those things pass, too. Just shadows. They come and go.

We dogs are lucky. We were given the one thing that lasts. How do I know? Many members say to me, "Let me tell you about the dog I used to have." Their faces light up; their eyes glow, and the years drop from their shoulders. They are warmed with the gift that doesn't just last, ... it grows. Love. Love, once given, never disappears. It lives in the heart and waits for its chance to bear blossoms and fruit.

Most of you people are luckier than I: you have children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. When you leave this earth, will the love you gave to them be gone? Oh, no. It lives in them forever, and it will be passed on and on. The word for that is immortality.

I'm a spinster lady, so was my life wasted? No, I have you. We all have each other, and we can love until we take our last breath. That won't be our end, either. The love we have given will never cease. It will go on forever. ❀

Volunteers continued

became the question as 'reliables' like Susan McDaniel, Sharon Parda and Lisa Accettola stood at the ready to recommend and assist. Chaplaincy volunteer, Artis Clotfelter, circulated offering help and direction.

Now, we would never suggest that this singular holiday event is the reason to offer your help to Volunteer Services. Oh, no, they're at the ready to assist all year and can use all the help they can get. Bet you have abilities you haven't exercised in years. Call Susan at 944-4930 to find a job that fits you. 'Tis the season to be helpful.

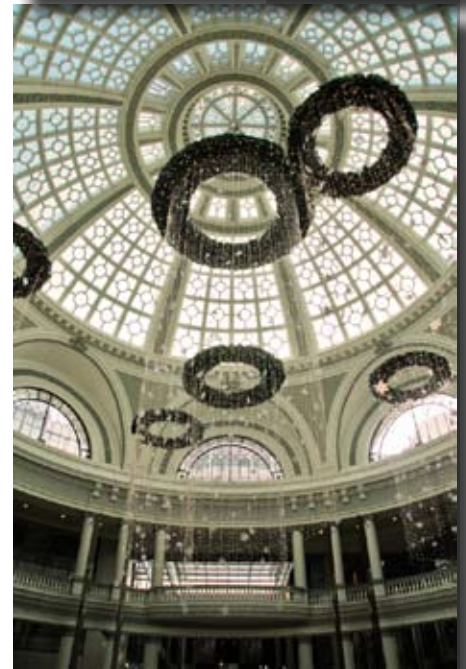
The Emporium

On December 4, Home Members traveled to San Francisco to visit the famous mall at The Emporium.

The Emporium, founded in 1896 in San Francisco withstood the 1906 earthquake, was destroyed by fire and then was rebuilt in 1908. Under different store names and ownerships, it continued to operate until closing in 1996. After consideration to preserving the building's historic façade, redevelopment and renovation, The Emporium reopened on September 28, 2006. With a total area of 1.5 million square feet, it houses the largest Bloomingdale's outside of New York City, Nordstrom, a 9-theater Cineplex, Bristol Farms specialty food store, many high quality specialty stores and a food court with a high-end restaurant collection.



When we entered the mall, it appeared we were entering the old Nordstrom's Department Store with its old brick face and traditionally dressed window. Then I was overwhelmed by the 6-story view of Nordstrom's new face (*photo left*). All the shops were a splendor with holiday dressing – very tasteful glitz and glitter surrounded us. A friendly mall employee showed us how to navigate the building and everyone quickly disappeared for the adventure.



The area approaching the Dome and the renovated Dome displaying Holiday decorations.



Everything was magnificent and when I was asked if I wanted to return next Christmas season, I quickly shouted "Yes!"



January 2009



Scharffen Berger Chocolate Factory

Did you know that tasting chocolate is an experience akin to wine tasting? Well, that's what we learned when Home Members visited the Scharffen Berger Chocolate Factory in Berkeley on December 17th. We also learned about the complete process of making natural dark chocolate "from bean to bar," as well as the growing process and fermentation (didn't know that!) The history of the Shaffen Berger company was very interesting and included tidbits of information such as the owners' attempt at producing chocolate at home using a coffee grinder, mortar and pestle, an electric mixer, and a hair dryer to produce their first chocolate, in Robert's home kitchen in 1996, the two tested nearly 30 varieties of cacao beans for flavor.

Of course the lecture included tasting chocolate and learning how to savor the various fruity flavors. Following was a complete tour of the factory and then more chocolate to taste as we entered the gift shop. Most of us couldn't resist purchasing chocolate for ourselves or as great holiday gifts.

The trip was completed by dining in Café Cacao, a joint production of Scharffen Berger co-founders John Scharffenberger and Robert Steinberg and California restaurant developer Raymond Klein. Imagine – desert first at the factory followed by a gourmet lunch that featured Scharffen Berger chocolate!

For a virtual tour of Scharffen Berger, visit their website at www.scharffenberger.com



Annual Napa Elks Holiday Dinner

Thanks again to the Napa Elks, the Home Members enjoyed another wonderful dinner that included the Elks' famous split pea soup. Pea Soup Anderson, move over!

Travis Air Force Honor Guard presented a moving Flag Folding Ceremony. Their dedication shone through in every movement of the ceremony.

The night was not without tribute given to many deserving people. Sydney Fairbairn, Exalted Ruler of Elks #1108 in San Rafael, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for their Order's continuing support of the Veterans Home. Home Administrator Marcella summed up the Elks' contributions when she said, "I always remember that the Elks set the standard for the VA system of today."

In a special ceremony, Pearl Harbor survivors Dick Branch, Melvin Miller and James Dvorack were honored with certificates presented by Jerilyn "Skeeter" Holsapple, USAF Lt. Col. Ret. She also presented certificates to the wives of Pearl Harbor survivors, honoring them for their commitment to the husbands and contributions to the military.



American Legion Christmas Party

By Lou Zauner



Holiday cheer came to the Hospital Recreation Area on Sunday, December 14th. The American Legion District 5 hosted their traditional annual Christmas Party, bringing a flood of packaged and hand-made gifts.

Beginning at 1pm, the vast variety of cake and cookies was served by the dozens of dedicated American Legion Members

and Auxiliary volunteers. Musical entertainment was presented by John (Squeaky) Bolner,

Envelopes of \$5 bills and gifts of packaged candy, a flash camera, pads and pencils, toilet articles, knitted scarves and hats, hand-made blankets and more were distributed by the volunteers.

Sincere thanks and appreciation to our devoted friends, American Legion Auxiliary District 5 Members and Auxiliary, for their always generous Christmas event.



American Legion's super volunteer Pat Anderson.

NUMMI--a Toyota Plant Tour

By Lou Zauner

A timely peek into the automobile industry was presented to 24 Home Members on Tuesday, December 2, at the *New United Motors Manufacturing Incorporated* (NUMMI) Toyota plant in Fremont, California. What was once a General Motors plant became the first automotive joint venture. In 1984, GM and Toyota reopened the plant and the first car rolling off the assembly line was the Chevrolet Nova.

The Home Members were greeted by Sara Rogers, an effervescent and humorous Tour Guide who first had us seated for a 20-minute video presentation and presented a brief but comprehensive dialogue on the manufacturing process – stamping, body work, painting, and assembly. As of December of 2008, the NUMMI plant produces the Toyota Corolla compact car, Toyota Tacoma pickup truck, and the Pontiac Vibe hatchback. In the future could be the gasoline-engine, electric-motor hybrid the Prius.

Four hundred thousand cars and trucks leave the assembly line here each year--and all sold before their delivery. Two shifts, 6:00 am to 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm to 1:00 am, accomplish this monumental work. Photographs were not allowed beyond the viewing room and questions particularly related to costs were not answered. Likewise, requests for free samples were denied on the basis that all cars had been sold!

Along with the manufacturing process, the dynamics of the personal qualities and philosophy of Toyota are equally as important – MUDA: “Waste of time energy, motion, space, money, etc.,” KANBAN: “Process for ensuring just-in-time parts delivery,” JIDOKA: “Quality in your workstation,” and KAIZEN: “Continuous Improvement.”

Continued on next page



Rabbi Ira Book Joins Home Chaplaincy

By Lou Zauner



Saturday, December 6 and Thursday, December 11 were the first two days Rabbi Chaplain Ira Book visited the Home and held his first services.

Rabbi Book brings impressive credentials with many degrees from Columbia University, Teacher's College, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the University of San Francisco. Rabbi Book has done charitable work established by the Oakland Archdiocese and St. Leander's Catholic Parish, has been engaged in many professional projects and is a member of prestigious religious groups. He has also been director of Pastoral Care and Staff Chaplain at Folsom State Prison since 1997. He is the Author of scholarly articles and co-editor of "To Dwell Together in Freedom, a History of Jews in America." Rabbi Book resides in the

East Bay with wife Sharon, and has four grown children and five grandchildren.

Rabbi Ira Book's schedule for the Home is the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 10 am to 4 pm, and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 11 am to 5 pm. Meetings will be at the Main Chapel and all are invited to attend.



NUMMI continued

NUMMI is now an award-winning facility which ranks with other Toyota plants among the most productive manufacturing operations in North America.

Clambering aboard the tram for the plant tour, the two-dozen of us were transported for across 5.5 million square feet of plant operations and workstations. One

of Sara's favorite workstations was one she called "Jurassic Park" – an army of robots performing precision tasks, a surrealistic view of pre-historic past combined with space-age future.

Many thanks to Sara Rogers and NUMMI for an entertaining and enlightening tour; and to the Activity Department for another innovative event, and, of course, our packaged lunch for in-route sustenance.

As I Saw It--The Army-Navy Football Game

By Lou Zauner

Hosted and sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 702 and the Napa Valley Council of the Navy League, an Army-Navy Game Party was held on Saturday, December 6, at the Hospital Recreation Area. Doors opened at 8:30 am with kickoff at 9 am.

Six previous games between the two Service rivals resulted in all wins for the Navy. Was this to be different? To end the suspense early, unfortunately, the game ended Navy 34, Army 0. Oh, well, number 8 is only a year away.

The camaraderie and great food made up for the disappointment of the Army fans. The menu included hamburgers, hot dogs and all trimmings, baked beans, potato salad and a variety of ice-creams. Roundtable Pizza donated much of the food, and 10 Chico State C.A.V.E. (Community Action Volunteers in Education) students were on hand to cheer the Home Members and serve those unable to go through a serving line.

Many thanks to the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 702 and the Napa Valley Council of the Navy League and all great volunteers who made this a real big-game party!



Napa Valley Museum: *Current Exhibit*



Carlo Marchiori: “Gone with the Wine” – Paintings, Sculptures and Ceramics Inspired by the Dionysian Culture of the Napa Valley” through January 18, 2009
“Gone With the Wine” is a humorous exploration using the Pulcinella character from the Italian Commedia dell’Arte. A Pulcinella character cavorts across the museum walls from pedestal to pedestal, always inspired and fueled by wine. As he surrenders to the magic of the grape, displaying joy then foolish abandon, the viewer can partake in his frivolity.

Marchiori, classically trained in Padua and Venice before his immigration to the U.S., chose Pulcinella for his character traits that lend themselves to the “everyman” role he plays in this body of work. The use of Pulcinella allows the artist to explore the realm of the senses. Like so many people, Pulcinella indulges in exaggerated behavior as he drinks and splashes the liquid all around.



On December 6, 2008 There were girl scouts of all ages here at the Veterans Home giving homemade cards and gifts to the Hospital Residents. Daisy’s (Kindergarten – 1st grade) Brownies (2nd – 3rd grade) Girl Scouts (4th – 5th grade) Junior Girl Scouts (6th grade and beyond)



Lights! Camera! Action!

A young man once ran up to Cary Grant. “Mr. Grant,” he panted, “I’m such a fan of yours. I’ve always wanted to be Cary Grant.”

His idol thought a moment and said, “Me, too.”

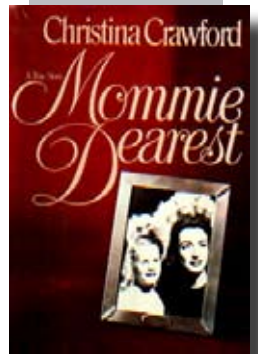
It had been a long road for the Cockney boy born Archibald MacLeish. I was going to check the spelling of that name for you, but I can’t. The library’s copy of his biography is checked out. So is John Wayne’s.



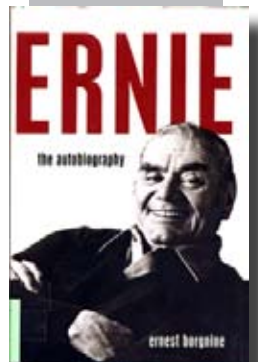
“What’s going on here?” I wondered. “Why are Hollywood stories so popular?” Maybe we wonder how the big stars got there. What combination of talent and circumstances let them climb that oh-so-precarious ladder? I took a walk down the biography shelves and found several of them, the first two a study in contrasts: an autobiography, *Home*, by a favorite “girl next door”, Julie Andrews, and the life of her opposite, Joan Crawford, appropriately named *Not the Girl Next Door*.



Oddly, these opposites (along with Cary Grant and Charlie Chaplin) had something in common: an unstable, turbulent childhood. “When I became famous and had enough money to buy anything,” Crawford said, “you know what I would have bought if I could have? My childhood. I learned just one thing from the childhood I had – it wasn’t the way I wanted my life to be.” Years later, her step-daughter wrote a famous book about her life with Crawford called *Mommy Dearest* in which she detailed the instability and abuse she suffered. (Yes, Brandy, I see your point.)





Maybe all us working in the library are frustrated quizmasters. So, here’s one. Who’s the oldest living actor to receive an *Oscar* and a *Golden Globe* nomination (the latter just this year ... at the age of 91.)? Give up? You can find all about it in *Ernie: The Autobiography*. Ernest Borgnine has seen it all in a career of sixty-odd years, appearing in some of the best (and worst) films of the time.



Borgnine’s story of his fascinating life ends with ... an anti-smoking plea. Ernie, who gave up cigarettes years ago, writes, “I’m sure John Wayne, Lee Marvin, Yul Brenner and other friends of mine it’s killed would agree.” (Okay, Brandy, you win. Finding your purpose is the most important thing there is.)

January Coffee Shop Specials

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Cook on Duty No Special A HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 Crab Salad Sandwich Cole Slaw \$ 5.50	3 2 Egg Ham & Cheese Omelet 1 Toast \$ 3.50
4 1 French toast 1 Egg 2 Bacon or Links \$ 3.50	5 Beef Tips & Noodles Veggies \$ 5.50	6 Fried Chicken Mashed Potato Veggies \$ 5.50	7 Sombrero Salad Rice Beans \$ 5.50	8 Spaghetti Salad Garlic Bread \$ 5.50	9 Captains Plate Fries Cole Slaw \$ 6.50	10 1 Pancake 1 Egg 2 Sausage Links \$ 3.50
11 2 Egg Cheese Omelet Hash Browns \$ 3.50	12 French Dip Sandwich Fries \$ 5.50	13 Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potato, Veggie \$ 5.50	14 Chicken Quesadilla Rice, Beans \$ 5.50	15 Pork Roast Mashed Potato Veggies \$ 5.50	16 Fried Shrimp Fries Salad \$ 6.00	17 1 Waffle 1 Egg 1 Bacon \$ 3.50
18 ½ Corned Beef Hash, 2 Eggs, 1 Toast \$ 3.50	19  Holiday No Special Today	20 Fried Chicken Fries \$ 5.00	21 Chile Relleno Rice Beans \$ 5.50	22 Meatloaf Mashed Potato Veggies \$ 5.50	23 Grilled Tuna Sandwich Macaroni Salad \$ 5.50	24 Huevos Rancheros Tortilla, 2 Egg-Beans ½ Hash Browns \$ 2.75
25 1 Egg, 1 Bacon, 1 Toast Hash Browns \$ 2.75	26 Sloppy Joe Salad \$ 5.50	27 Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potato, Veggie \$ 5.50	28 Sombrero Salad Rice Beans \$ 5.50	29 Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potato \$ 5.50	30 Fish Patty Sandwich Cole Slaw \$ 5.00	31 2 Egg Denver Scramble 1 Toast \$ 3.50

Homemade Soup daily / Breakfast served till 11:30 /Indoor / Outdoor Seating /Open 7:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. for Hot Food /Large Menu to Choose
From/ 2 TV's/ Tavern Service 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m./Karaoke Friday Night/ Lottery 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. daily / 8:00-Noon Weekends

Residential Care Activities for January 2009

All activities are subject to change. *Sign up early!* Activities can fill quickly. Call at 944-4900. Trip cancellations must be made at least 48 hours before trip. "No Show" will be stand-by only on future trips for a period of 60 days. To cancel a trip, call 944-4900.

sign up
early



Date	Time	Event	Site	Bus	Signup
4 Sun	9:30am	Golden Gate Horse Racing		MDR	Yes
5 Mon	10:00am	Costco/Vallejo/Smart & Final shopping		MDR	Yes
6 Tue	12:30pm	Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum		MDR	Yes
7 Wed	5:00pm	Warriors vs. LA Lakers		MDR	Yes
8 Thu	12:30pm	LeMelange/Library		MDR	Yes
	3:30pm	Wine Appreciation Class	MCC		Yes
9 Fri	8:30am	Bay Model – Sausalito		MDR	Yes
12 Mon	10:00am	Target/Raleys/WalMart shopping		MDR	Yes
13 Tue	8:30am	Breakfast Club/Gillwoods		MDR	Yes
	5:30pm	Pinochle Tournament	HRA		Yes
14 Wed	9:00am	Allied Council	HRA		
	5:00pm	Warriors vs. Sac. Kings		MDR	Yes
15 Thu	10:00am	Remembrance Service	CHP		
16 Fri	10:45am	Bunch for Lunch/Hometown Buffet		MDR	Yes
18 Sun	7:30am	Napa Senior Breakfast		MDR	Yes
19 Mon	10:00am	Fairfield Mall shopping		MDR	Yes
20 Tue	10:30am	Chabot Space & Science Center		MDR	Yes
21 Wed	5:00pm	Warriors vs. OK City Thunders		MDR	Yes
22 Thu	12:30pm	LeMelange/Library		MDR	Yes
23 Fri	11:00am	"USO Show" – San Francisco		MDR	Yes
	12:00pm	Military Museum & Store		MDR	Yes
25 Sun	1:00pm	Dreamweaver's Theater		MDR	Yes
26 Mon	10:00am	Vacaville Premium Outlets		MDR	Yes
28 Thu	6:00pm	Napa Bowl		MDR	Yes

Key – 1C/1D: Hospital 1C/1D patio; BOR: Borman Field; CHP: Chapel; FP: Fishing Pond; HL: Hospital Lobby; HRA: Hospital Recreation Area; LIB: Lincoln Library (Section G basement), LT: Lincoln Theater; MCC: Memory Care Center; MDR: Main Dining Room; MPG: Main Picnic Grounds; CS: Coffee Shop/Tavern (Section G main floor); VHC: Veterans Home Cemetery; VGC: Vintners Golf Course; XII: Annex II; YNT: Yountville; YVP: Yountville Veterans Park.

Vintage Movies in the HRA Monday & Tuesday at 6 PM

Monday – Musicals(m) or Comedies(c)

Tuesday – Drama(d) or Westerns(w)

Date		Title/year/minutes	Stars
5	Mon	Lovely to Look At (m) ★★½ (1952) 106 min.	Kathryn Grayson, Ann Miller, Howard Keel, Red Skelton
6	Tue	Go for Broke! (d) ★★★ (1951) 92 min.	Van Johnson, Lane Nakano, George Miki, Wagner Anderson
12	Mon	Sitting Pretty (c) ★★★½ (1948) 84 min.	Clifton Webb, Robert Young, Maureen O'Hara, Ed Begley
13	Tue	No Movie tonight – Pinochle Tournament at 5:30pm	
19	Mon	Words and Music (m) ★★½ (1948) 122 min.	Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Perry Como, Gene Kelly, Lena Horn
20	Tue	White Heat (d) ★★★½ (1949) 115 min.	James Cagney, Virginia Mayo, Edmond O'Brien, Fred Clark
26	Mon	My Dream is Yours (m) ★★½ (1949) 101 min.	Jack Carson, Doris Day, Lee Bowman, Adolphe Menjou, Eve Arden
27	Tue	Gunfight at OK Corral (w) ★★★ (1957) 122 min.	Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, Rhonda Fleming, John Ireland

All movies are not rated unless otherwise stated. Bus transportation follows the movie.



Dreamweaver's Theater

with the Town of Yountville

"Murder at the Howard Johnson's"

Sunday, January 25, 2009 - Showing at 2:00pm

Home Member's ticket \$10

It is advised for participants going to see this performance to show up a half hour early before showing time. All seats are first come, first serve basis.

Call the Activity Office at 944-4900 to reserve your ticket. Call early! Bus transportation will be provided and load at 1:00pm at the Main Dining Room bus stop.

December Pinochle Tournament Results

- 1st Steve Spingston & Cliff Lindsey
each won a \$30 Gift Certificate
to WalMart
- 2nd John Boner & Marty Diamond
each won a \$20 Gift

Next Tournament will be held on
Tuesday, January 13th in the HRA at
5:30pm.

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY MOVIES IN THE HRA

Fri, Jan 2 – “The Queen”

Repeat showing of 2006 excellent film. Helen Mirrin won “Best Actress” Oscar for her portrayal as Queen of England during period of 1997 death of Princess Diana. Well crafted and acted bio-pic about interaction within royal family and world-wide. ★★★★★ Rated PG-13

Wed, Jan 7 – “A Little Romance”

1979 delightful drama filmed in Paris and Venice. Stars Sir Laurence Olivier, Diane Lane and Theo Bernard. ★★★ Rated PG

Fri, Jan 9 – “Sex & the City”

New (2008) film version of TV/HBO series. Title covers description and “R” rating. Stars Sarah Jessica Parker. Above average entertainment. Rated R

Wed, Jan 14 – “Missing”

1982 drama based on true story of father searching for missing son in Latin American country. Stars Jack Lemmon and Sissy Spacek. ★★★½ Rated PG

Fri, Jan 16 – “Get Smart”

New (2008) action comedy based on popular TV series. Stars Steve Carrell. ★★½ Rated PG-13

Wed, Jan 21 – “Impromptu”

1991 bio-pic romantic drama about life of writer George Sand and musicians Fredrick Chopin and Franz Liszt is 19th century France. Stars Judy Davis, Hough Grant, Bernadette Peters and Emma Thompson. Slow moving, long on words and short of composer’s music. ★★★ Rated PG-13

Fri, Jan 23 – “Mamma Mia!”

New (2008) ABBA music infused stage adaptation equals light romantic comedy. Stars Meryl Streep. ★★½ Rated PG-13

Wed, Jan 28 – “The Taming of the Shrew”

1967 colorful version of Shakespeare’s popular comic play. Stars Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. ★★★½ Not rated.

Fri, Jan 30 – “The Dark Knight”

New (2008) action sequel to “Batman Begins” featuring the late Heath Ledger as “Joker.” ★★★ Rated PG-13

Ratings of Motion Picture Association of America: G - movie suitable for general audiences; PG - parental guidance suggested; PG-13 - Recommended for viewers 13 or above. May contain material inappropriate for younger children; R - recommended for viewers 17 or older; NC-17 - intended for adults only



Hosp. Rec. Area
Theater doors
open at 5:15 pm
Wednesdays &
Fridays

Special selected
presentations at
5:30 pm

Feature Film
begins at 6:00 pm

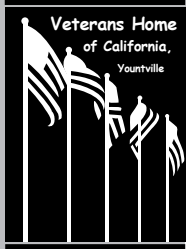
The Digital
Theater is
sponsored by the
Veterans
Remembrance
Committee,
The MW&R Fund
and AMVETS

Neil Remnant,
Movie
Coordinator

Key:

★★★★
Great Film

★★★
Good Film

The AMVETS Service Foundation logo is a circular emblem with a gold laurel wreath border. Inside the wreath is a red circle with the words "AMERICAN VETERANS" in white. Below this is a purple circle with the word "AMVETS" in white. The logo is positioned behind the main text block.

The *Veterans Home Media Program* gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the *AMVETS Service Foundation* in supporting *KVET TV*, the *Grapevine*, and the *Veterans History Program*.

GRAPEVINE

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Information
about the
Veterans
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call: 1-800-
404-VETS